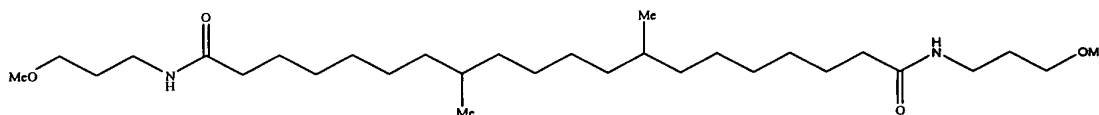


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A hair shampoo composition comprising the following components (A) and (B):

(A): an amphipathic amide lipid of the formula



, and

(B): from 5 to 30 wt. % of sulfate surfactants which are each represented by the following formula (b):



(wherein, R represents a linear or branched alkyl or alkenyl group having from 8 to 18 carbon atoms, a stands for 0 or a positive integer, and M represents an alkali metal, alkaline earth metal, ammonium, alkanolamine or basic amino group); are made of from 30 to 45 wt. % of the sulfate exhibiting a=0, from 17 to 27 wt. % of the sulfate exhibiting a=1, from 10 to 20 wt. % of the sulfate exhibiting a=2, and the balance of the sulfates exhibiting a=3 or greater; and contain the sulfates exhibiting a=0 to 2 in an amount of 70 wt. % or greater based on the total sulfates; and

(C) a cationic polymer,

wherein said shampoo composition has a pH of from 1 to 5 at 25°C when diluted to 20 times its weight with water.

2. (canceled)

3. (canceled)

4. (original) The hair shampoo composition of claim 1, wherein component (B) is a sulfate type surfactant which is made of from 33 to 43 wt. % of the sulfate exhibiting $a=0$, from 20 to 25 wt. % of the sulfate exhibiting $a=1$, from 13 to 18 wt. % of the sulfate exhibiting $a=2$, and the balance of the sulfates exhibiting $a=3$ or greater; and the sulfates exhibiting $a=0$ to 2 are incorporated in an amount of from 85 wt. % or greater based on all the sulfates.

5. (canceled)

6. (currently amended) The hair shampoo composition of claim ~~5~~ 1, wherein the cationic polymer is selected from the group consisting of cationic cellulose derivatives and cationic guar gum derivatives, and mixtures thereof.

7. (canceled)

8. (withdrawn) A hair protecting method, which comprises the steps of applying a hair shampoo composition as claimed in claim 1 to the hair, shampooing with the composition, and then rinsing off the composition.